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308-8724, on: I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8 is being transmitted via facsimile to (703)

Date: 4/26/01

By [Signature]

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John F. Stone

Docket No.: 36435.0100

Serial No.: 09/498,135

Filed: February 4, 2000

Examiner: Goldberg, J.

Title: CHROMOSOME-BASED METHOD FOR
FACILITATING DISEASE DIAGNOSIS

Group Art 1655
Unit:

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAY 02 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to continued examination of the above-identified Continuing Prosecution
Application, please enter the following amendments:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 8- 11, and 16-17 as follows.

- SubDI
1. (Thrice Amended) A method suitable for facilitating disease diagnosis, the method comprising the steps of:
 - exposing cells of a patient suspected of having a disease for which chromosome damage is diagnostic, to a chromosome damaging agent selected to damage chromosomes within the nuclei of the cells to produce chromosome fragments having broken ends;
 - marking at least some of the broken ends; and
 - analyzing the marked broken ends within interphase cell nuclei to determine whether the cells were affected by the disease, wherein said analyzing includes comparing